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RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ARF](#) [EAID](#) [ASEAN](#) [TH](#)
SUBJECT: THAILAND SUPPORTS MOST ELEMENTS OF PROPOSED ARF
STATEMENT ON REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

REF: STATE 74383

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission, James F. Entwistle, reason 1.4
(b) and (d).

11. (C) Post delivered reftel points regarding the proposed ARF Ministerial Statement on Regional Disaster Preparedness to MFA First Secretary of ASEAN Affairs Jitvipa Benjasil on July 11. In response, Jitvipa stated that Thailand agreed with most of the key elements presented and felt that it was timely to develop ARF as a mechanism to address natural disasters. She stated that further discussion among ASEAN members was needed on the mechanics of a combined ARF and ASEAN standby arrangement system and the SOFA template. Jitvipa noted that they look forward to the joint U.S. and Philippines ARF Disaster Relief exercise.
JOHN